In Winter 2012, AEJMC held the last of its infamous “chip auctions,” in which several score people flew to a random place in early December and, after making deals about programming, literally threw poker chips at a bucket as the deals and times were announced.

We changed that. In November 2013, Council of Division head Bob Trumpbour and vice head Chris Roberts flew to Columbia, S.C., where with AEJMC staff we slotted the dates and times for programs you said you wanted.
The result of the change: Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt about the new system. Many people made deals long before the deadlines, or even before they knew all the possibilities. This was a bad thing, because FUD isn’t so good. This was a good thing, because it meant Divisions/Interest groups made deals with DIGs they hadn’t dealt with before. The goal for 2014-15 – less FUD about the process, because this first experience shows that it can be trusted.

The good news about the end of ‘chipping’ – you’d still be stuck in Dallas, because ice hit DFW on the weekend you would all have traveled there.
But enough about last year. Now it’s time to think about a year from now. (Note: We move to Wed-Sun conference in 2015, different from Tu-Sat of 2014 in Montreal.)

We know some groups like to have meetings at specific times – especially if they program something right before their biz meeting.

We know others don’t care. Let us know, and we’ll do our best to accommodate you. Again – no promises.
So forget a little about what you might have know about the chip auction. Embrace the new process.
How you use your chips

A. Research sessions
   -- Traditional panels
   -- High density panels
   -- Scholar-to-scholar (our fancy phrase for “poster.”)

B. PF&R (Professional Freedom & Responsibility)
C. Teaching (and topical research) panels

Research sessions – the ways your Division/interest group presents its members original research. These are generally done SOLO by a group, except scholar-to-scholar sessions that are done in combination with other groups in poster sessions.

Refereed research:
A. Traditional panels – four or five papers presented, with each speaker going 10 to 15 minutes, with a respondent who ties it all together, with questions/answers. These often are developed into themes, or a “best-of” panel for your group’s top papers.
B. High density panels – 10 or so papers are presented in rapid order. Some groups give each presenter four or five minutes. Or each presenter sits at a table, and the audience goes from table to table to hear the brief presentation.
C. Scholar-to-scholar sessions (our fancy phrase for “poster” sessions.) We call them “scholar-to-scholar” because administrators, tenure reviewers, and others need to know that poster sessions are just as prestigious and rigorously reviewed as other sessions. See Jack Rosenberry at http://www.aejmc.org/home/2013/01/poster-child-not-bad

Other panel types:
Professional Freedom & Responsibility panels – often co-sponsored by multiple divisions/IGs, based upon the principles here:
http://www.aejmc.org/home/?s=pf%26r

Teaching and topical research panels – again, often co-sponsored by multiple divisions/IGs. These also can be research-related, but are usually not refereed research.
This section explains how you use those chips – some are “free” gifts from AEJMC. Some events DO NOT cost a chip. Some cost a half-chip. Others will cost a full chip.

You program as many sessions as you need – or, at least until you run out of chips.
How you use your chips

A half-chip

• Your first four research sessions – alone or in groups.
• Anything you co-sponsor with another group.

How to use your chips

One chip

• Research sessions after your first four, unless with shared with another group.
• Anything you sponsor without another group.
The best programs often come when groups work together. Your chips go further, which means you can program more things. Moreover, you bring together programming that's more than just your group's members talking to themselves.

How you present research:
1. AEJMC gives you five “free” posters at one of the several scholar-to-scholar sessions sponsored by AEJMC. (Each scholar-to-scholar session has room for 80 posters.)
2. You get those first four sessions at a half-chip each, regardless of whether it's a panel, high-density, or scholar-to-scholar session.
3. AEJMC's goal is to accept about half of the papers submitted each year. In 2013, we had a 49.7 percent acceptance rate.
4. To determine how many spots for papers your Division/IG will need, take a look at previous years and plan from there. If you end up with a huge increase in submissions, you might have accept more posters and do a high-density session. If you have a huge decline, let AEJMC know and you can program more teaching/PF&R panels. Again—if you have questions, ask your group's previous leaders, AEJMC staff, or Bob and me.
HALF!

Your division’s goal should be to accept roughly half of the submitted papers.

A word about posters

- Seven available scholar-to-scholar sessions.
- At least two groups must team up.
- Ask for between 20 and 80 slots.
- Half-chip each group, regardless of number of groups.

These scholar-to-scholar sessions are in ADDITION TO the five posters that AEJMC gives each Division/IG.

To do another session, you must team up with at least one other Division/IG. Team up as best you can. Unless you make a compelling case for needing 80 papers, try to stick to 40 or fewer.

Once the final number of acceptances are set, AEJMC staff can do a little bit of tweaking to make it all fit.
**High-density sessions**

- Eight sessions available (because it takes a big room.)
- Usually 10 or so papers in a hurry.
- Hint: Ask for it early in your list of requests.
- Your group can have a second HD session only after everyone has had a chance.

High-density sessions are limited to eight because they require a big room to fit everybody.

These tend to be aimed at Divisions/IGs that have many papers to schedule.

They go quickly, so ask for one early when you submit your requests. Your Division/IG won’t get a second high-density session until all other groups have their requests filled.
Start by asking your members for panel proposals. (Follow the link for details.) Start as soon as possible, and we suggest a Sept. 30 deadline.

Sometime in September?

An early online ‘social’ to see what’s available. (Details to come.)
That gives you two weeks to sort through the panel proposals. (When helping with Newspaper and Online News Division, we get 25 a year. We cull the herd to 10 or a dozen, knowing that we won’t be able to do all of them. Think about panels too similar to ones done in past years. Seek a balance between PF&R and teaching. Think about which ones are realistic. Think about which ones might actually lead to a partnership with another division or interest group.)

http://www.aejmc.com/?p=1103
AEJMC will put all the proposals together, and put them online. Go through all of them, looking for ones that mention your division/IG.

These are the official times we'll set aside for “dates” online, but feel free to start your conversations before then.
What to do when

You’ll send in forms by Nov. 8.

About those forms

1. It’s not a deal... Say you think you’ve made a deal with the Smurf Interest Group. You put it on your form. If the Smurf IG doesn’t put it on its form, then we’ve got a problem. So please double-check with Divisions/Interest Groups you’re teaming up with.

2. If you back out of a deal, give the other group plenty of time. Don’t be that person.

3. Give us notes... Please let us know if there’s something special about this group – such as a specific date/time. We will do our best to accommodate it, but we cannot promise. But we won’t know anything unless you tell us.
In late November, COD head Bob Trumpbour and vice head Chris Roberts will go to Columbia, S.C., where with AEJMC staff we will program the four days of Montreal.
Every round will start anew. No alphabetical order. It’s fair.

Because Divisions have six chips and Interest Groups have 3, it was decided that Divisions will go all rounds of programming but Interest Groups will not be programmed in the first and third rounds, but will be programmed in the second, fourth, and then all other rounds.

But that doesn’t mean that IGs cannot do anything in those early rounds. If you’re a secondary sponsor with a Division, then you’ll have a session if the Division makes it a priority in those early rounds.

So make alliances with Divisions!
In the first few rounds, we'll do our best to help you. But again – we can’t do everything, and we can’t do anything if we don’t know about it. So tell us if there’s a specific date/time.

Remember, too, that some of your sessions work best on the first or last days because of the timing of guest speakers, etc.

We know the middle two days are the most popular, so we’ll start with them (unless you mention the need to program at a different date/time.)

When the middle days are filled, we will program the first day, and then the last day.
Here’s what the spreadsheet looked like for the sixth round. Many divisions and interest groups were already fully programmed.

You’re done. Unused chips are not programmed.

But there are penalties for trying to overschedule. You oughta know the deals you’ve made and carefully calculated how you’re investing your chips.
As usual, you cannot program against yourself. We’ll make sure that doesn’t happen – and, if we can, find ways that general topics don’t overlap. (At AEJMC D.C., two NPR folks talking at the same time. While “editing breakfast of champions” happens, Council of Affiliates and SPJ sponsoring “journalism of the future” roundtable with Washington Post editor Marty Baron. And while ICD has “Understanding China’s Internet Dragon,” Law and Media Ethics were doing “Freedom of Speech and the Press Around the World.” We can’t stop all of that, but maybe we can slow it down a little.)

At the old chip auction, you just called out the program number, a date and time. No one ever looked at the name/purpose of the program to compare it to what was happening at the same time. We hope we look at the topics and try to limit programs at the same time that are exceedingly similar.
This year it’s really important for you to know – and hit – the deadlines. You’ve got to get your deals made and everything sent to AEJMC headquarters by Nov. 8 – or there will be trouble, and your group will have a harder time getting what you need as we put together our three-dimensional puzzle.

If there’s a problem with the schedule, please let us know immediately.

Once you know what was programmed, you should quickly tell your members what was scheduled and when, so people leading those sessions can finalize speakers and give you the information you’ll give to AEJMC by March 15.
This year it’s really important for you to know – and hit – the deadlines. You’ve got to get your deals made and everything sent to AEJMC headquarters by Nov. 8 – or there will be trouble, and your group will have a harder time getting what you need as we put together our three-dimensional puzzle.
This is a form that you’ll send to AEJMC before March 15, filling in all the information AEJMC needs.

This year it’s really important for you to know – and hit – the deadlines. You’ve got to get your deals made and everything sent to AEJMC headquarters by Nov. 8 – or there will be trouble, and your group will have a harder time getting what you need as we put together our three-dimensional puzzle.

This is very important this year, because it will take AEJMC longer to ship program books to Canada.
Lessons we learned

No. 1: Don’t go to Dallas.
Lessons we learned

1. Don’t go to Dallas.
2. Start deal-making early – but be flexible.
3. Make sure it’s really a deal.
4. Coming for 2016: Better tech for this. (We’re taking this to the AEJMC board.)

Questions?
Comments?
Rebuttals?

Please contact us at:
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